



B A T M A N  
LEGENDS OF THE  
DARK KNIGHT

NO 68 FEB 95  
195 UK 125 CAN 275



J.S.  
S.M.

GOING  
SANE

part four de matts • staton • mitchell



*It's coming down so hard, I half expect to see an ark floating through downtown Gotham.*

*Worst rainstorm in years, the weather reports are saying. Gale-force winds. Widespread flooding.*

*And some well-timed lightning for added effect.*

*Not a good night to be out.*

*Better to be someplace safe and warm, with someone you love.*

*Of course...*

...I never have that luxury.

GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ON TIME, BAT-CHESTER--BUT WHERE ARE DON, PENNIS, PHIL, AND MARY?

WE'RE ON THE AIR IN THIRTY SECONDS-- AND I DON'T WANT MY SPONSOR GETTING MAD!

Uh-uh-uh! STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE! ONE MORE STEP--

--AND YOUR OLD PAL, "JOKER BENNY" WILL BE PLAYING "HOOHAY FOR HOLLYWOOD" ON COUNCILWOMAN KENNER'S THROAT!

I should be grateful that he's such an egotist. Called the police himself--demanding that I meet him here. But I don't feel grateful.

Just... disgusted.

**GOING**  
*the Village!*  
**SANE**



They all said he was dead—but I knew he'd show his nasty face eventually; his wretched kind...

...just keeps coming back.

JOKER--  
YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED?

I'M HERE!  
NOW LET HER GO!

THIS IS  
BETWEEN THE TWO  
OF US!

LET HER  
GOT THE GIRL OF MY  
DREAMS? ARE YOU CRAZY,  
BAT-CHESTER?

I'M  
THIRTY-  
NINE YEARS  
OLD...IT'S ABOUT  
TIME I FOUND  
A SWEETHEART  
AND SETTLED  
DOWN!

NO, I THINK DEAR  
ELIZABETH AND I WILL GET MARRIED  
TONIGHT. HAVE A ROMANTIC CANDLELIGHT  
DINNER AT ONE OF GOTHAM'S FINEST  
RESTAURANTS AND--

Hummm.

ON SECOND  
THOUGHT, MAYBE IT'D BE  
BETTER IF WE ATE AT  
MCDONALD'S.

IT'S  
SO MUCH MORE...  
ECONOMICAL!

Is it because I didn't want to?

BUT LET'S  
BEGIN THE PROGRAM  
WITH ANOTHER MUSICAL  
NUMBER YOU MIGHT  
ENJOY--

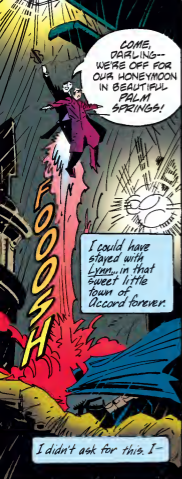
I've been turning this city upside down  
looking for him. So why couldn't I have  
found him before he kidnapped  
Kenner again?

Is it  
because  
he "killed"  
me once--  
and I'm  
afraid  
he'll do  
it...

"LOVE IN  
BOOM!"

WHOOOM

...again?!



COME, DARLING-- WE'RE OFF FOR OUR HONEYMOON IN BEAUTIFUL PALM SPRINGS!

I could have stayed with Lynn... in that sweet little town of Accord forever.

I didn't ask for this. I-

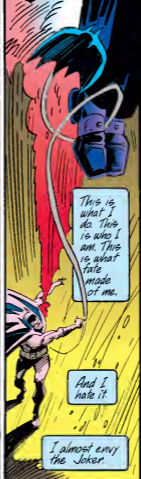


WE'RE OUT OF TIME--

--SO GOODNIGHT, FOLKS!

Listen to me!

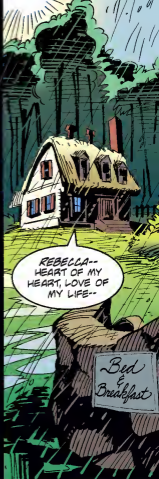
As if what I want even matters.



This is what I do. This is who I am. This is what fate made of me.

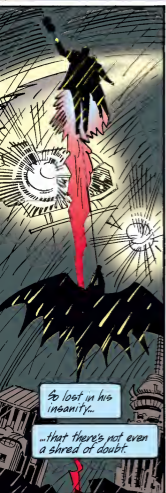
And I hate it.

I almost envy the Joker.



REBECCA-- HEART OF MY HEART, LOVE OF MY LIFE--

Bed & Breakfast



So lost in his insanity...

...that there's not even a shred of doubt.



No hopes of what might be...

...or memories of what once was...



JOSEPH KERR-- THAT'S THE FIFTH TIME YOU'VE PROPOSED TO ME THIS MORNING!

ONLY THE FIFTH? I MUST BE SLIPPING!



...to divide his heart.

Stupid--! I let myself  
get too distracted.

I can't feel the way other men feel. Can't think  
the way they think. Can't be human.

LET'S TRY FOR  
SIX--

REBECCA--  
WILL YOU MARRY  
ME?

BUT  
I'VE ALREADY SAID  
"YES!"

SAY  
IT AGAIN,  
PLEASE.

MAYBE  
THEN I'LL FINALLY  
BELIEVE IT.

YES.

I've got to be as  
inhuman... as  
unrelenting... as  
the Joker.

...or he and his kind will wash  
me--and my city--

...AWAY...

...in a deluge  
of filth and  
madness.

YES!  
SHE SAID  
YES!

Oh  
waaOop-dee-doo!  
Oh, la-dee-  
da!

Oh, B  
HAPPY  
DAY!

YOU'RE  
CRAZY DO YOU  
KNOW THAT?  
TOTALLY--











JOSEPH-- SOMETHING IS WRONG

WHY WON'T YOU TELL ME?



IS IT ME?

IS IT THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS-- AND YOU DON'T HAVE THE HEART TO--

DON'T SAY THAT!



I WANT YOU AS MY PARTNER... MY LOVER... MY BEST FRIEND... MY WIFE--

-- TOMORROW --

-- AND FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.



I LOVE YOU, REBELLA. WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL.

DON'T YOU EVER FORGET THAT.



AK... HERE'S THE MAP LET ME--

YEP. THERE'S THE BRIDGE. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOUGH TO GET TO--

YOU WANT RIGHT HERE WHILE I--

BUT--

I JUST WANT TO GO ON AHEAD FOR A MINUTE. MAKE SURE IT'S SAFE.



I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.



Y'KNOW SNOOKUMS--







NO MATTER WHERE  
I GO...WHAT I DO--HOW HARD  
I TRY TO FORGET--

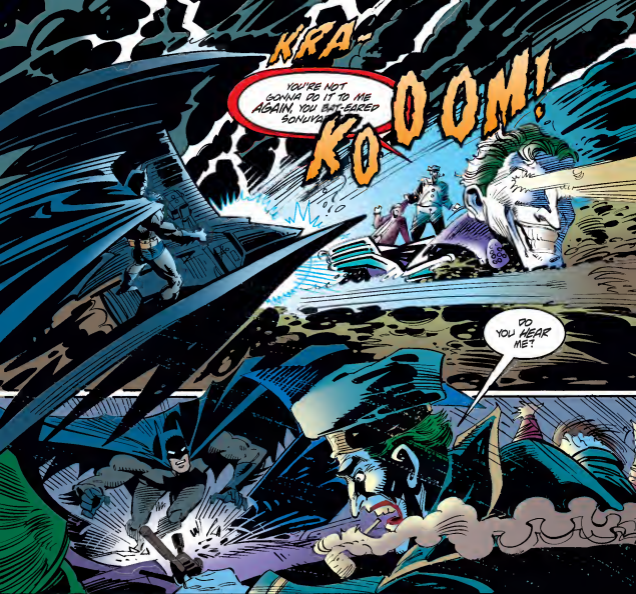
--HE'S  
ALWAYS  
THERE!

I THINK HE'S  
DEAD AND BURIED... I  
THINK HE'S ROTTING IN  
HIS GRAVE--

--AND  
HE COMES  
BACK!

PULLS  
ME DOWN  
SUCKS ME  
UNDER!

DROWNS  
ME!



**KRA--**

YOU'RE NOT GONNA DO IT TO ME AGAIN, YOU BAT-EARED SONUV-A--

**KO O O M!**

DO YOU HEAR ME?




YOU'RE NOT TAKING REBECCA




AWAY FROM ME




AGAIN!




OH, REBECCA, I'M SO SORRY! I DIDN'T WANT TO GO AWAY! I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU ALONE!



BUT I HAD TO DO IT, DIDN'T YOU SEE?



HAD TO PUSH THE SIGHT OF YOU, THE SCENT OF YOU, THE HEART AND SOUL OF YOU AWAY!



BLOT YOU OUT, DRIVE YOU DOWN! OBLITERATE YOU!

BECAUSE--ONCE HE CAME BACK...

WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I TALKING ABOUT?

THAT'S... FUNNY.

FOR A MOMENT THERE I THOUGHT I REMEMBERED--

AH, WELL. WHATEVER IT WAS--

--IT'S GONE NOW.

I HAD TO COME BACK...

... TOO.





Storm's so deafening, I couldn't hear what he was shouting. Not that it matters.

JOKER--  
IT'S MY LIFE YOU WANT--

He's just spewing more lunacy. Illogical. Meaningless.



The problem is: How do I get through to a mind so twisted?

--KENNER'S JUST A PAWN--SHE'LL ONLY GET IN THE WAY!

GIVE HER UP!

A heart so cold!



**KRA-KOOOM!**

GIVE HER UP?

I'D SOONER GIVE UP MY AUTOGRAPHED PHOTO OF HUNTZ--

--HALL!!

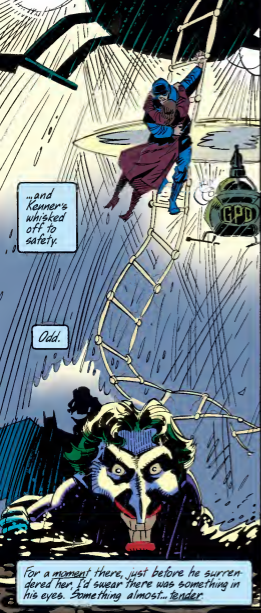
NEVER!

A-ALL RIGHT.

I'LL LET HER GO.



And he does. The police choppers move in...



...and Kenner's whisked off to safety.

Odd.

For a moment there, just before he surrendered her, I'd swear there was something in his eyes. Something almost... tender.



But, whatever it was...

OOOH!  
I CAN SEE  
RIGHT UP YOUR SKIRT,  
YOU SHAMELESS  
HUSSY!

I CAN'T  
UNDERSTAND WHY I  
WAS EVER ATTRACTED  
TO A TRAMP  
LIKE YOU!

...IT'S  
GONE  
NOW



ALL YOU  
HAVE TO DO IS  
TAKE A DIVE INTO  
THE BAY, BAT-  
BOBBY--

--AND THOSE  
HELICOPTERS WILL BE  
BACK--READY TO BLOW  
ME OUT OF THE  
WATER!

NO.

YOU'LL ONLY  
FIND A WAY TO SAVE  
YOURSELF. YOUR KIND  
ALWAYS DOES.

I'M HERE  
WITH YOU--TO THE END.



But I don't want to  
be here.

WHICH  
ONLY  
PROVES--



I want to be someplace  
safe and warm.

--THAT  
YOU'RE AS  
CRAZY--



Far, far away from here.

--AS  
I AM!

THIRTY SECONDS  
BAT-GUANO--AN' THIS WIDDLE-  
BITTY SHIP--

--MAKES  
A GWEAT BIG  
KA-BOOM!



Oh, no!

AND AS MUCH  
AS I'D LIKE TO  
STICK AROUND  
FOR THE  
FIREWORKS--



He's doing  
it to me  
again!

--I'M LATE FOR AN EXTREMELY  
IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENT!



Sweeping me into  
the current!

Dragging me down!

YSEE, THE "THREE  
STOODGES APPRECIATION  
SOCIETY" IS MEETING  
TONIGHT--



YOU KNOW HOW  
IT IS, OLD CHUM: ONCE A  
KNUCKLEHEAD, ALWAYS  
A KNUCKLEHEAD!

NYUK-  
NYUK-  
NYUK!

--AND I  
SIMPLY CANNOT  
MISS IT!







NO!



YOU MANIAC--  
WHAT DO YOU THINK  
YOU'RE DOING?!

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP



YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY DOWN THERE AND DIE!

LET GO OF ME!

NOT THIS TIME, JOKER!



NOT EVER--

STARTER  
FUNK  
FOK  
FOK  
FOK  
WOOF

--AGAIN?!



NOW WHAT?!

Heh-heh-heh.

SILLY OL' ME. I FORGOT TO REFILL THE TANK.



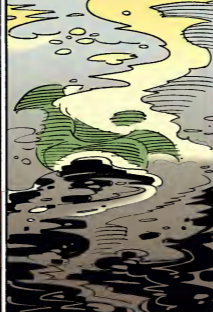
WE'RE OUT OF GAS.



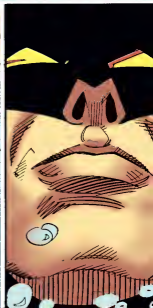
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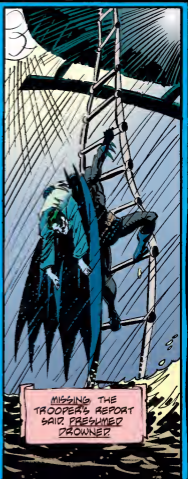
DA

BOON

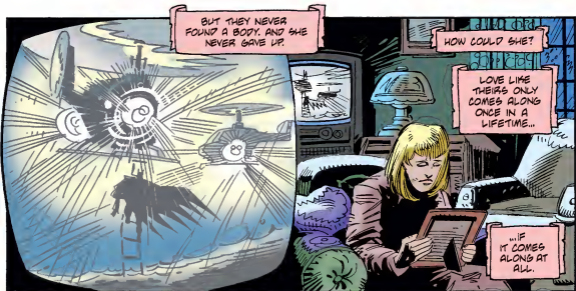








MISSING THE  
TROOPER'S REPORT  
SAID PRESUMED  
DROWNER

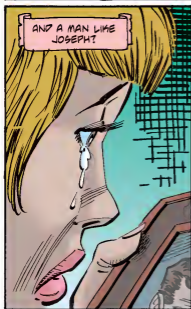


BUT THEY NEVER FOUND A BODY. AND SHE NEVER GAVE UP.

HOW COULD SHE?

LOVE LIKE THEIRS ONLY COMES ALONG ONCE IN A LIFETIME...

...IF IT COMES ALONG AT ALL.



AND A MAN LIKE JOSEPH?



THERE COULD ONLY BE ONE.



SHE CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER AS SHE SITS ALONE WITH HER MEMORIES, HIS PRESENCE HANGING ON THE AIR ALL AROUND HER...




...IF HE IS INDEED OUT THERE, SOMEWHERE. BEWILDERED. LOST.



CONSUMED BY THE INNER DEMONS HE COULD NEVER ARTICULATE OR EXPLAIN.







AND SHE PRAYS THAT  
HE'S SAFE, AND THAT A PART  
OF HIM, AT LEAST...

...REMEMBER...

BECAUSE REBECCA BROWN  
BELIEVES THAT EVEN THE TINIEST  
PROOF OF THEIR LOVE HAS THE  
POWER TO GROW INTO A  
STREAM, A RIVER...

...AN OCEAN...

...THAT CAN...  
THAT WILL...

...THAT MUST...

...CARRY HER  
BELOVED JOSEPH  
BACK TO HER  
ONE DAY.

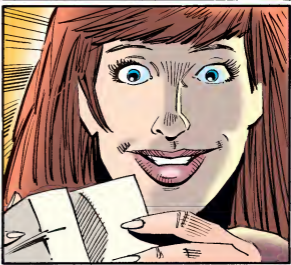
IT'S BEEN ONE OF THOSE WEEKS.

DOCTOR LYNN EAGLES HAS SEEN TWO DEATHS AND THREE BIRTHS, BROUGHT DOWN FIVE FEVERS, SET SEVEN FRACTURES, AND DONE BATTLE WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF OTHER AILMENTS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION.

TIMES LIKE THIS SHE WONDERS IF IT'S ALL WORTH IT.

DO HER PATIENTS EVEN NOTICE HOW HARD SHE STRUGGLES? HOW PASSIONATELY SHE...

...CARES?





DOWN THERE...

...HE REDISCOVERED THE PART OF HIMSELF THAT EXISTED BEFORE HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE A LITTLE BOY'S RAGE BECAME A MAN'S CRUSADE.

BEFORE THE DEMON'S MASH BLOTTED OUT HIS TRUE FACE.

HE KNOWS HE'LL NEVER SET FOOT IN THE TOWN AGAIN, JUST AS HE KNOWS HE'LL RETURN TO IT OFTEN-- IN HIS HEART.

IN MOMENTS OF WEARINESS AND DESPAIR, HE'LL RETURN--AND IT WILL GIVE HIM THE STRENGTH TO GO ON.

THE CHAOS MAY SUCK HIM DOWN, INTO ITS SWIRLING, HORRIFIC DEPTHS--BREAK HIS BONES, CRUSH HIS SPIRIT--BUT BECAUSE OF THIS PLACE, BECAUSE OF THAT WOMAN, HE WILL RISE UP, TIME AND AGAIN...

...WHOLE...

...AND SANE.

**THE END**



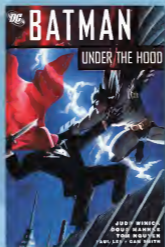
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PAUL POPE

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